GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:116
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
DECLINE IN POPULATION OF TIGERS IN NATIONAL PARK
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the population of tigers in Sariska, Ranthambhore and Panna National Parks;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any authentic survey to find out the truth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government proposes to take to protect the tigers in Panna National Park as well as other tiger reserves?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Disappearance of tigers from the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan has been reported. The Task Force constituted by the Rajasthan State Government has currently estimated a population of 26 tigers in Ranthambhore, as against its earlier estimation of 35 tigers in the reserve during 2001-02. A population of 34 tigers has been estimated in Panna by the State (Madhya Pradesh). Its earlier estimation during 2001-02in the reserve was 31.

(b) The All India Estimation of tigers copredators and prey animals to be conducted by the Government of India involving the States is scheduled from November, 2005 to February, 2006.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to conserve tigers are at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-1

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 116 TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2005 ON DECLINE IN POPULATION OF TIGERS IN NATIONAL PARK

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.